



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

P.O. Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300

January 4, 2002



Your address
is in the
Cowlitz
watershed

Richard Nelson
11517 NE 185th St.
Battle Ground, WA 98604

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Re: Water Right Application S2-29802

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated December 20, 2001. Upon investigation of your application for water I have found that out of **one hundred and forty-five (145)** your application is the **one hundred and twenty-first (121st)**.

Our most recent legislative session enabled this agency to increase the number of staff permit writers, with the intent of clearing the current backlog of application for water, both new and transfers. There has been no indication that the projected shortfall in state funding will affect the pertinent staff.

Since our state's water laws are based on a doctrine of "first in time is first in right", we are obliged to process this list starting with the oldest applications and working forward. You will be notified when we begin processing your application.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office at (360) 407-0240.

Sincerely,

Shawn Hopkins

Shawn Hopkins
Water Resources
Southwest Regional Office

SH:th



RECEIVED
DEPT. OF ECOLOGY/SWRO

DECEMBER 20, 2001

'01 DEC 24 A10 :47

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
PO BOX 47775
OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7775

ATTN: J. MIKE HARRIS
WATER RESOURCES SUPERVISOR
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

RE: WATER RIGHT APPLICATION NO. S2-29802

DEAR MR. HARRIS,

ATTACHED IS A COPY OF A LETTER RECEIVED FROM YOU IN OCTOBER 1998. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD GIVE ME AN UPDATE ON THE WATER RIGHT APPLICATION FOR MY PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE COWEEMAN RIVER.

I ALSO WANTED TO INFORM YOU THAT I HAVE MOVED EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 2000. PLEASE FORWARD ALL FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE TO MY ADDRESS LISTED BELOW.

THANK YOU.

Richard P. Nelson

RICHARD P. NELSON
11517 NE 185th STREET
BATTLE GROUND, WA 98604

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P.O. Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300

October 16, 1998

Richard Nelson
4211 NE 42nd Street
Vancouver WA 98661-3140

Re: Water Right Application No. S2-29802

This letter is to acknowledge that the Washington State Department of Ecology received your water right application. We have assigned your application the number indicated above. Please include this number in future correspondence regarding your application with the Department of Ecology.

When we begin actively evaluating applications in your area, we will prepare a public notice and send it to you with publication instructions. It will be sometime before we are able to begin working in your area. In the meantime, please notify Ecology of changes such as address, property ownership, or variations in your proposed water use plans.

The availability of water in Washington state is a serious problem. Much of the water in our state has already been appropriated. The competition for water has escalated with our state's increasing population, conflicting water policy issues, and grave declines in salmon and other fish populations. A new watershed management law brings us a step closer to addressing some of these issues. It sets into motion a locally based process to address water quantity, quality, and habitat issues. Watershed management will help meet challenges for getting water to people, industries, farms, and fish.

In some areas of the state, we are continuing to evaluate applications within watersheds where we have previously gathered information and completed watershed assessments. We are also continuing to process water right permit or change applications that are intended to address public health and safety emergencies, the natural environment, or are for nonconsumptive withdrawals. All other applications are grouped by watershed and processed according to the date of submittal, and when we have enough information and staff resources to make decisions.

If you would like further information on your application, please contact the Southwest Regional Office at (360) 407-0240.

Sincerely,

J. Mike Harris

J. Mike Harris
Water Resources Supervisor
Southwest Regional Office

JMH:th

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